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AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING EXTENSION WORK 1/

Federal extension agricultural engineers serve as liaison officers between the Extension Service and the research bureaus and other agencies of the U. S. Department of Agriculture conducting agricultural engineering work, and between the Extension Service of the Department of Agriculture and the 156 State extension agricultural engineers in the cooperative extension work of the State agricultural colleges.

These specialists operate under Extension Service project agreements with other agencies as follows:

A. T. Holman	Agricultural engineering specialist	PISAE
H. S. Pringle	Rural electrification specialist	REA
I. D. Wood	Irrigation specialist	SCS
J. C. Oglesbee, Jr.	Cotton ginning specialist	PISAE-PMA
A. M. Pendleton	Cotton ginning specialist	PISAE-PMA
Vacancy	Housing	PISAE
Committee work	Safety and fire prevention	USDA-Safety Council

This cooperative extension work between engineering subject-matter and service agencies, the Extension Service and the State Extension Services, involves planning, conducting, and measuring the effectiveness of the Nation-wide extension effort beneficial to farm people and contributing to the national welfare. The Federal specialists aid in planning activities and programs, assist in organizing support for them, provide or obtain services and materials, teach and train workers, measure and evaluate results, and report accomplishments for public information. Their work includes reviewing State agricultural engineering extension project agreements, annual plans of work and annual reports, as well as continual correspondence and field work to maintain the two-way bridge of communication essential to cooperative extension work.

The 156 State specialists named on the accompanying lists are likewise liaison leaders or workers in their respective assignments, which are also defined by cooperative extension project agreements. Their duties in State cooperative extension work are very similar to those of the Federal specialists. They initiate their respective contributions to State programs in annual plans of work, which are referred by their directors to the Director of Cooperative Extension Work, U.S.D.A., thus inviting the contribution of the Department to the success of State extension plans and programs.

On the back of this sheet is a brief description of State extension agricultural engineering project agreements, annual plans of work, and annual reports. In the accompanying copy of Extension Activities and Accomplishments for 1947, the statistical record of agricultural engineering extension work is reported on pages 17, 21, 22, and 25, and accident and fire prevention work on pages 10 and 22.

1/ For discussion with Federal Relations Committee, American Society of Agricultural Engineers, November 5, 1948.

Project Agreements covering extension agricultural engineering work are in effect in every State. They are proposed and prepared on the initiative of the State extension directors. These agreements indicate the nature, scope and need for extension work in the field. Analyses are given of the various phases of work, such as housing, farm buildings, farm machinery, rural electrification, soil conservation, drainage, irrigation, land clearing, and cotton ginning. They show how the educational work will be organized and conducted. The agreements provide for the State specialists to prepare annual plans of work and annual reports and to conduct the work in such manner as to fulfill the requirements of the Smith-Lever Act and subsequent legislation relating to cooperative extension work, and appropriations for this purpose. These agreements are effective when signed by the State Director of Extension Service and the Director of Cooperative Extension Work, U.S.D.A.

Annual Plans of Work are prepared by State extension agricultural engineers. They are submitted to their respective State extension directors for review and approval, and forwarded to the Director of Cooperative Extension Work, U. S. Department of Agriculture, for joint approval. Here they are reviewed by extension agricultural engineers and administrators. Approval qualifies the State to receive Federal funds supporting the project. A suggested outline for plans of work is furnished the States. It includes an analysis of the situation, list of problems, goals, methods of conducting the work, cooperation with agencies and persons, publications to be prepared and used, calendar of work for each specialist, and an outline map of the State showing where the work will be conducted. The initiative for planning and conducting the work is in the hands of the State and its specialist administered by his State extension director in coordination with the State program of cooperative extension work.

Annual Reports are prepared by agricultural engineering specialists in the State and sent to Washington for review. The Reports are indexed and reviewed, filed, and available for reference. Excerpts are taken from the reports to indicate how the work is conducted and the progress that is being attained. Numerical data presented in statistical and graphical forms are used for annual and special reports issued by the Extension Service and the Divisions of Agricultural Engineering and other agencies interested.

Reports of cooperative extension work are required by the Smith-Lever Act to be made annually to State governors and the Secretary of Agriculture to account for the use of funds and to justify continuing appropriations. The extension agricultural engineers assist in gathering the record of accomplishment. The basic narrative and statistical annual reports are made by the county agricultural, home demonstration, and 4-H Club agents. State and county annual reports are considered as of such permanent value in the annals of progress of the United States that they are filed permanently in the National Archives. This record of the application of science to agriculture through extension work includes all phases of engineering applied on farms and in farm homes.